AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0003] with the following amended paragraph:

[0003] In view of the above, there exists a need for an improved catheter ~~which overcomes the above mentioned problems in the prior art~~. This invention addresses this need ~~in the prior art~~ as well as other needs, which will become apparent to those skilled in the art from this disclosure.

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] This object is achieved through a catheter comprising a catheter shaft including a proximal end and a distal end having preferably secured thereto a balloon, and a fitting, preferably a luer fitting, arranged at the proximal end of the catheter shaft. The proximal end of the catheter shaft ~~is provided with~~ can include a bending section.

Please replace paragraph [0007] with the following amended paragraph:

[0007] Although the generic prior art according to U.S. Patent No. 5,569,200 refers to the sensitivity to kinking and to the provision of slits in the catheter shaft as a possible solution for this problem,[[.]] ~~The~~ the slits are provided at the distal end, at which point no forces are acting in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis of the catheter, since there are only forces applied in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the catheter. In this respect the slits cannot solve the above-explained problem because in the generic catheter there is still the risk of kinking or even breaking upon application of external forces, as has been described above.